

THE WINGED CHARIOT

VOLUME IV - Issue 7

THE WINGED CHARIOT

% MoonStar Enterprises

P. O. Box 8458

San Diego, CA 92102

A newsletter devoted to the Tarot discipline.
Annual subscriptions: \$10.00 U.S.A.; \$12.50 Canada/Mexico; \$15.00 elsewhere. Eight issues published erratically. Sample copies \$2.00.

Back issues from Volumes II and III are available: \$2.00 each or \$10.00 per cycle. Volume I is available at \$15.00 for the cycle.

Personal ads are free. Business ads cost \$3.00 for 25 words or less + 15¢ per additional word. Ads must be Tarot oriented and we reserve the right to edit or refuse ads.

Make checks and money orders payable to Tracey Hoover. Comparable trades accepted in lieu of payment, subject to the Editor's discretion.

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SECRETS OF THE TAROT REVEALED
(Beginning Tarot Video by Laura Clarkson)

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Yet I was intrigued by advertisements for Laura Clarkson's videocassette Tarot series called Secrets of the Tarot Revealed. I obtained the beginning 2-hour tape through Lance Seffingwell of Visionary Video Productions. Because of family competition for the VCR, I have watched the tape in segments, but I suspect that timed doses may benefit a beginner trying to absorb the complexity of the Tarot.

I am most impressed by Laura's personal presentation: no dramatics or distractions. Her speaking voice is pleasant and serves as an effective backdrop to the visual focus on the cards. Her program is offered in an organized manner, beginning with an overview of the Tarot, descriptions of the Major Arcana and Minor Arcana, and sample spreads and readings. She wisely utilizes the Rider Major Arcana and Aquarian deck, which are popular and easily available. My only quibble is disagreeing with her version of the Tarot's factual history.

This is obviously a non-professional effort. It appears to be taped in Laura's home (a distant phone rang in one sequence). And at times the camera jerked, while scene changes are somewhat abrupt. But it is a Tarot "first," which is a feat in itself.

In lieu of a "live" Tarot teacher, a video presentation is superior to a dry "how-to" text. The only disadvantage is not being able to get an answer to questions that may occur to the viewer. However, it has the advantage of being replayed until understanding is achieved. My impression is that video presentations are an especially effective medium for showcasing Tarot cards.

This beginner's videocassette costs \$39.95; similarly priced intermediate and advanced tapes are also available. They can be ordered through Visionary Video Productions, P. O. Box 50865, Dallas, TX 75250.

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THE MOON

(XVIII)

The eighteenth trump often bears unpleasant connotations relating to the murky, fearful or even loathesome depths of the soul. It has been viewed as a deceptive veil obscuring the light of truth. It was called an inferior reflection of the sun, a weakly feminine polarity to masculine solar energy. Only since the emergence of the spiritual feminist movement in the 1970's has the Moon been reevaluated and balanced with positive attributes. It exemplifies the third Crone aspect of the waning Moon, replete with sinister (lefthand, or feminine) connotations of wisdom, the accumulated wealth of experience, maturing, and the passage from life to death and beyond.

Traditional decks display a crayfish attempting to emerge from the depths of an artificial, enclosed pool at the bottom of the vignette. Beyond, in a wilderness background, two dogs bay at a rayed moon with a human profile etched within its fullness. Past the dogs loom two isolated towers. Drops fall from the Moon to the scene below.

Egyptian decks show a scorpion within a round pool. On a flat surface beyond, a black dog sits in front of a white pyramid (designed with an elaborate door) and faces a white dog in front of a black pyramid. Above a full dark moon is partially obscured by clouds.

Modern decks depict a lobster crawling out of a natural pool onto a artificial (humanly constructed) path. On either side of the path a civilized dog and wild wolf bay at the moon. Again, two towers appear in the distance, while the path between extends into distant mountains. A straining profiled face within the full moon exudes rays and drops similar to traditional designs.

In standard designs, the playoff between natural and artificial constructs is a dominant theme. An intriguing non-standard Moon in the Amazon Tarot depicts a handheld oval mirror; reflected in the mirror is a smiling full moon.

On the following pages appear extracts of lunar wisdom from a variety of Taroists.

"It is strange and unseemly that we wrap veils around the inner light within us as a means of protecting ourselves from it when the inner light itself offers us the ultimate protection. We fear the power of the inner light for we associate power with danger." (Sandbach)

"The task is not to pierce through to the inner truth but to take back the truth." (Pollack)

"States of lunacy are feared and their symbols are conspicuously absent today. The fear of lunar consciousness or 'moon madness' appears as fear of emotions, passion, instinct, subjectivity, irrationality, whimsey, play, and love of the forces of nature. It is a fact that at full moon many crimes of violence do occur, a reflection of a culture where people are so out of touch that they perceive themselves 'crazy' when these feelings are intensified. The energy that used to be channeled to fertility love festivals has been diverted into anxiety and crime." (Morgan)

"...and what a Moon! Both new and full, golden like the Sun, exuding rays of energy, positive and negative (long and short) as well as dripping with the moisture needed by a fruitful earth." (Hasbrouck)

"Everything in our transitory is but a resemblance." (Goethe, Faust)

"The Path is narrow, showing the requirement of concentration on the goal. Cycles and rhythms, waxing and waning, ups and downs, are shown by its undulation. Yet it ever rises."

"Measures of time were first equated with lunar rhythms before solar timing, because of the easily observable increase and decrease of the lunar crescent. At each New Moon, for three nights the moon disappears from the heavens, but on the fourth day it reappears, or is 're-born'." (HOMANS)

"This is the difficult night before the dawn of the reborn personality - a dramatic and restless period of self-doubt and psycho-spiritual skepticism." (Buess)

"One does not become enlightened by imagining figures of light, but by making the darkness conscious." (Jung)

"In the depths of one's soul, it is always four o'clock in the morning." (F. Scott Fitzgerald)

"Just as the hermit crab extends himself into his neighbor's shell only to find that he soon begins to identify more and more with this extension, so Man also extends himself into 'shells alien to himself' and thus begins to identify with these externalities." (Sandbach & Ballard)

"It is advantageous to cross the great water." (I Ching)

"The idea of the journey to the moon after death is one which has been preserved in the more advanced cultures ... its destiny consists of reabsorbing forms and of recreating them...Hence, for Plutarch, the souls of the just are purified in the moon, whilst their bodies and their spirit to the sun." (Eliade)

"So, while the card is heavy with a sense of danger, it also shows clearly that the elements of life are always safeguarded while they are being prepared for the next stages of becoming." (Maxwell)

"Earth your dreams! Be creative with past shadow dumpings." (Kent)

"...the activity of menstruation and its dark blood is intimately connected to this Path, the Path of childbirth presided over by the Greek goddess, Artemis." (Wang)

"...it is the moon of human and pre-human experience countless times repeated, the moon of the changing eyes of the cat, the qualitative moon, one of those 'moods' which belongs less to the individual than to the collective mind, and which can there be evoked as an experience of our inherited rather than our individual humanity." (Raine)

"The moon does not so much shine as shed leprous flakes of light - in some versions they are blood-drops." (Ussher)

"Is the moon's magnetism, its 'sucking' of the fluids on the earth's surface and in the biosphere, like the nourishing of a child by its mother? Some esoteric doctrines assert that it is: 'Organic life on earth feeds the moon,' according to Gurdjieff." (Metzner)

"All of life is moved to increase by The Moon, whose rhythmical waxing & waning tell of life's power to cast off the shadow of death through tireless rounds of re-births in unending cycles of time." (Campbell)

"It is the sign of panta rei: Everything passing, flowing or ebbing away in life, consequently uncertainty." (Thierens)

"The moon is the last of the Trinity of women so well described by Robert Graves in his The White Goddess; the High Priestess is the Nymph, the Empress is the fertile Mother, and the Moon is the old Hag or Crone, she who buries the dead." (Innes)

"She pulls us to her depths, & if we go in fear, we are likely to struggle, experience hysteria & paranoia, become a 'lunatic,' & possibly miss the revelatory experience itself." (Noble)

"This is the waning moon, the moon of witchcraft & abominable deeds. She is the poisoned darkness which is the condition of the rebirth of light. This path is guarded by Tabu. She is uncleanness & sorcery....All prejudice, all superstition, dead tradition & ancestral loathing, all combine to darken her face before the eyes of men. It needs unconquerable courage to begin to tread this path." (Crowley)

"Her land is more fertile, the most fertile in the pack, it surrounds her, almost engulfs her, for she is but one, the central one, of many parts of nature harmoniously mixing in this land of plenty." (LeGette)

"It is frightening at first to find our tidy compartmentalized world thus dissolved into shimmering moonflux; but as our eyes grow accustomed to the moon's revelations, our fears, too, begin to dissolve in wonder & awe."

"...the Fool is Luna's own moon child - a vague creature of rainbow possibilities with a penchant for madness."

"No wonder Lady Moon presents only her pockmarked witch's mask to man's gaze & offers him an inhospitable & barren body. She has every reason to resist his approach. She rightly fears he will defile & poison her nature as he has long since ravaged & despoiled that of his own Mother Earth." (Nichols)

APA-TAROT - A COMMUNICATING TAROT NETWORK

Subscriber Chris Brown brought APA-Tarot to my attention. He then arranged with co-Office Editor, Rita Prince Winston, to send me a sample issue of this monthly "zine." A core group of about 30 people submits Tarot-oriented commentary to Rick Young and Rita, who collate and re-distribute it to the networkers. An exceptional vehicle that finally offers a fully functioning communication network between Taroists!

According to Chris, "APA-Tarot is a unique monthly apa [Amateur Press Association]-magazine dedicated to discussing Tarot and Tarot related subjects." "APA-Tarot is an exciting resource for people exploring Tarot...Each person comments on each others writings (not unlike "Letters to the Editor"), thus keeping each issue fresh and intriguing." "This is an informal publication and there is no membership fee. The only expense to you is that you are to reproduce your own contributions and include a small amount of money for the return postage."

APAs are a cultural phenomenon with a specialized vocabulary. Some common terms and abbreviations are: BTW - by the way; ct or ¢ - comment; disty - distribution (the completed APA magazine); HHOK - ha, ha, only kidding; ILLO - illustration; IMHO - in my humble opinion; and RAEBNC - read and enjoyed but no comment.

Contributors offer original Tarot designs, original and reprinted Tarot material, auctions of Tarot resources, and lively commentary. Sometimes ongoing conversations tangent to non-Tarot subjects.

APA-Tarot is almost two years old; however, Rick and Rita will release their editing responsibilities in November and are soliciting offers for a new OE (Office Editor). To join APA-Tarot, contact Rita at 254 S. Mariposa Avenue #10, Los Angeles, CA 90004; or Rick at 5705 Elmer, N. Hollywood, CA 91601.

A P O E T ' S T A R O T

As noted in the last issue, Jesse Cougar's "A Poet's Tarot" is a new black-and-white feminist deck. A completely illustrated deck of 74 cards, there are 13 instead of 14 cards in the Minor Arcana suits. Like Ruth West's "Thea's Tarot," all designs are non-standard and the Tarot format is used as a vehicle for the expression of Cougar's personal metaphysical vision.

Most Major Arcana are retitled and given a definitive keyword. Three cards - the Pharon, Transducer (see illustration on page 14) and Wildan were created to define new concepts. The Pharon (XIII) is adapted from the Greek myth of "Charon, who ferried souls over the River Styx to the land of the dead...so the Pharon becomes one who helps others through any intense transition." The Transducer (XV) is "one who transmits energy from one system to another or converts energy in form." And the Wildan (XVIII) is "a woman in her wild state, our animal selves."

The four Minor Arcana suits have been reworked as Sticks (Wands), Bowls (Cups), Knives (Swords), and Pens (Pentacles). The 11th, 12th and 13th cards in each suit aren't Court cards; they depict animals and are also provided with astrological signatures.

The most unique feature of the deck is that it is two-sided. On the back of each card, within purple and silver borders, appears a metaphysical affirmation or poem dealing with the nature of the particular card. While poetically appealing, they do not offer concrete explanations of the symbols on the card, which is frustrating with such a non-standard pack. The pictures are simple sketches of women engaged in all types of mundane and magical activity.

A second edition of A Poet's Tarot costing \$15.00 is due this fall from Tough Dove Books, P. O. Box 528, Little River, CA 95456. This deck is primarily recommended to feminists and collectors.

THE SUN

(XIX)

The glorious Sun

Stays in his course and plays the alchemist,
Turning with splendour of his precious eye
The meagre cloddy earth to glittering gold.

(Shakespeare)

The Sun is traditionally the most positive card in the deck, its solar symbol dominating the landscape of the arcanum. Yet there is a range of variation in what is displayed under the all-encompassing rays of the sun. The symbols on the card all point to illumination, happiness, innocent abandon, laughter, warmth, and nurturing/nourishing aspects of the solar being.

Marseilles-type decks commonly portray two children, androgynous or male, wrapped in loin cloths and moving towards an embrace. These twins have been called Castor and Pollux, inspiring some Tarotists to associate Gemini with this trump. Other traditional decks depict the children as male and female dancing within a fairy ring. A brick wall in the background implies that the children are in a protected physical enclosure in addition to being beneath the sun's nurturing eye.

Egyptian decks place a man and woman within a sacred flower circle, lending strength to the divinatory association of the card with marriage. The Sun, more than the Lovers, indicates long-term relationships involving commitments to family and children. Esoterically, the couple represents the alchemical sacred marriage (hierosgamos) of the sun and moon, or masculine and feminine, within the individual. The couple have also been called soul-mates, or karmic halves, travelling through incarnations toward the ultimate goal of union.

Modern decks usually copy the Rider design of a naked child sporting a red feather in his hair and riding a white horse (a solar symbol). The loin cloth has been furled as a banner. The motif shouts exuberance, joy and freedom. In the background is a wall topped by blooming sunflowers.

Nineteen is number of the sun in numerology; 19 reduces to 1, as does the 10th trump - the Wheel. The Wheel and Sun are exoteric and esoteric disks, respectively, of the Major Arcana. It is part of a cosmic triad of Star, Moon and Sun; the three represent intuition-emotion-intellect or conscious-subconscious-superconscious awareness.

The following quotes illustrate various aspects of the nineteenth arcanum:

"Through worshipping me so exclusively you have now learned through the intelligence of my fire consciousness how to turn the world into a desert." (Gardner)

"It is the divine verb that activates the world." (Balbi)

* "...reveals the relationship between the moon and the earth; it deals with the couple "moon--earth" as such..." (anonymous) *moon quote - sorry!*

"Some saw the Sun as the Eye of the Supreme God, and not only as the source of heat and light, but of supreme riches, whose golden drops rain down on those below, when the opaque crust of the senses has been rendered sufficiently transparent so they may receive them -- a function performed by the Sun in its most purifying aspect." (HOMANS)

"...the Sun is not the sun in the sky, but the eye of lighted consciousness." (Metzner)

"...the sunstruck person has gone beyond the child's fear of darkness by travelling through it....He or she is 'lucid,' a word which means clear and direct, but which literally means 'filled with light.'"

"It is interesting that Apollo, god of light, was born from Leto, goddess of night, and that his major shrine, the oracle at Delphi, belonged originally to goddesses of darkness. Even under Apollo's direction the wisdom and light of the oracle operated out of darkness. It was Apollo who forced Oedipus to discover the mystery within himself." (Pollack)

"The child...addresses the world with the same spirit of play and optimism that the Fool exhibits. But she has lived more than the Fool, and the play is out of a more authentic experience." (Gearhart & Rennie)

"The sun is the fire dance of life - the joy of being bright of mind, sunny of heart, energized of body, & illuminated of spirit." (Wanless)

"The realm of the collective psyche is often represented poetically as the 'children's land,' the country of innocence and undifferentiated consciousness..." (Douglas)

"Here man & woman - the new Adam & the new Eve - stand triumphant, hand in hand, knowing perfect equality & perfect spiritual equilibrium on every plane of manifestation." (Helene)

"As 'The Star' symbolised the Reason, and 'The Moon' the Irrational, so 'The sun' is the true Super-rational - the freedom of harmonized personality." (Ussher)

"This is the peak of individuation, and the highest stage of conjunction between Spirit and Soul. This greatest inner experience can only be likened to the most impressive external event man ever witnessed; the sight of the sun." (Gottlob)

"Essence, when it awakens at the age of enthusiastic adolescence, sets out on its way to the sun-spirit, sitting on the impetuous horse of desire." (Stuart)

"As life cannot exist without the sun, so the true knowledge cannot exist without enlightenment, here seen as rays emanating from the Sun." (Warner)

"The containing area...introduces the idea of the growth of the spirit in the womb - an idea paralleled in the ancient astrological symbol of the sun, which is a single dot (a seed) within a circle, with all the attendant sexual and spiritual connotations." (Gettings)

"There is only one Right Activity, one thing to do: to be as you are. To be, be it openly and let the sun shine." (Cooke & Sharpe)

"Arcanum 19 pictures the first stage of Paradise regained. This is the true 'lost continent' for which so many seek. It will never be found buried beneath the waves of an ocean, unless it be the ocean of our self-centered emotions." (Fathman)

"And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them. And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 18:2-4)

"The arcanum of the Sun evokes the movement of Life carrying along everything existing in its evolution towards final perfection." (Lionel)

"...life is no longer a challenge to be overcome but rather an experience to be enjoyed." "The walled garden in The Sun creates a...safe enclosure - a sacred temenos, or holy place - where something dark & hidden can safely be brought forth into the light." "But in all cultures, the sun has carried the valence of a central supernal Being with which we humans feel intimately connected & toward which we feel something akin to divine responsibility." (Nichols)

"Fruitfulness and sterility, the manifestations of the sun, are but the two poles of a single effect." (Balin)

"The SUN is above you. Enjoy it! Feel its warmth, employ its energy. But understand that you are standing under a force capable of shattering earth." (Kent)

"The twins...illustrate the principle of ambivalence in the concept of duality, which is the recurrent theme in the Major Arcana of the Tarot." (Pushong)

"On the white horse of pure consciousness I ride into the sun. I am a child of the eternal. I am filled with splendor, light and power. Nothing can harm me save my own ignorance. Wisdom will make my face shine. I am victorious insight. I shall conquer and prevail. I am a ray of the blazing sun of all universes. I now take my first step toward complete freedom. I shall be free, for I will dwell in the eternal." (Hoeller)

"The inner 'sun' radiates to the outer sphere & heals the fractured parts of the being, bringing together & harmonizing the various subpersonalities under the guidance of the soul." (Noble)

BOOK REVIEW

Anonymous; Meditations on the Tarot: A Journey into Christian Hermeticism; 1985; Amity House; New York.

As the title states, the text utilizes the Tarot Major Arcana to illustrate principles of Christian Hermetism. Many concepts presented are similar to those expounded by Mouni Sadhu in The Tarot. However, this text offers them in a more easily digestible format. The prose flows more smoothly, with less occult vocabulary, and therefore it is more illuminating.

The meditations "...are Christian in showing a dedicated love of God, man and the earth, and a devotion to the Risen One who lives in the rituals of the Church. They are Hermetic in bringing the reader into a stream of wisdom originating in ancient Egypt with Hermes Trismegistus, and continuing into the present. Finally, they are a journey into a realm increasingly neglected since the end of the middle ages: the interior of the individual human soul..." (introductory material).

Each arcanum serves as a springboard for the delineation of the author's Christo-Hermetic doctrine. Liberal references to the bible, gnostic treatises, occultists, and ancient and modern philosophers are drawn into his arguments. Thomas Aquinas, Oswald Wirth, Henri Bergson, C. G. Jung, and Teilhard de Chardin contribute to the creation of a holistic philosophical construct.

Each letter (chapter) is addressed to the reader as "Dear Unknown Friend." The author desires anonymity, but the 1985 copyright lists Martin Kriele (although it was originally published in France in 1967). This edition is the first English translation (executed by Robert A. Powell).

This massive tome (658 pages) has a corresponding massive price (\$44.95). Thus, the pricetag in addition to the weighty subject matter places it beyond the interest or means of most Taroists. Yet it is beautifully written and succeeds in its aim to unite occult Hermetism with esoteric Christianity. It is highly recommended to Taroists with an orientation toward either or both systems.

CLASSIFIEDS

TAROT FOR YOURSELF: A WORKBOOK FOR PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION:

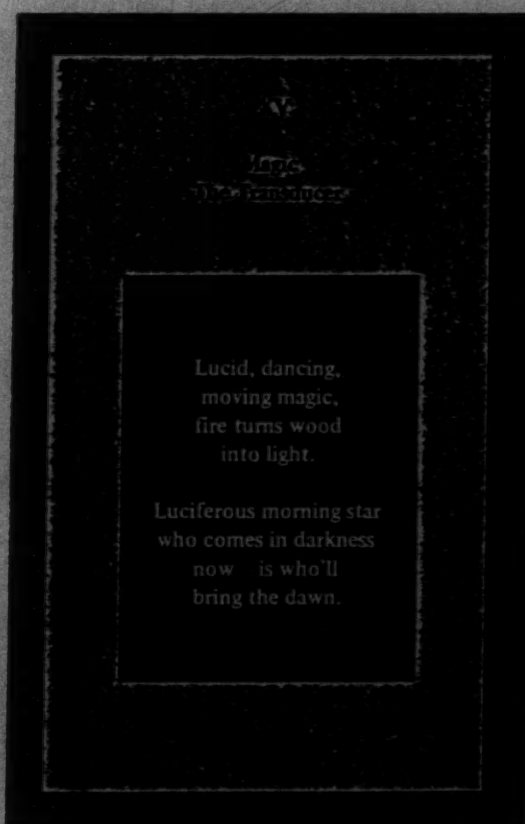
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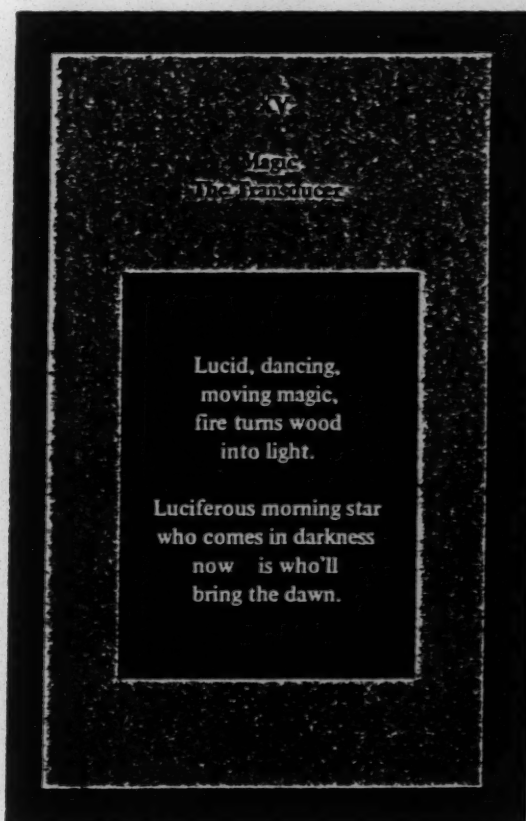
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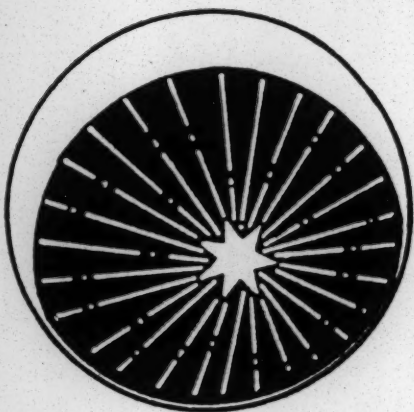
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